



ECHO

(Every Catholic Has Obligations)

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
ST STEPHEN COUNCIL #14084
Riverview, FL.
www.kofc14084.org



Vol 1

September 2006

NO. 1

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 16	Soccer Challenge 9 AM (JC Handley Field)
September 18	2nd Degree Tm Practice (School)
September 19	1st Degree Exemplification 7 PM (Nativity Social Hall B)
September 20	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
September 23-24	Ministry Fair (MEMBERSHIP BLITZ)
September 23-24	Fourth Degree Exemplification (Coral Springs)
September 24	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Carolina)
September 27	Blue Mass 7 PM (Church)
September 30	Bell Shoals Road Cleanup 8 AM (Church)
October 1	Parish Picnic/Project Cure
October 4	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:30 PM (Church Nursery)
October 4	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8:00 PM (Church MPR)
October 9	Columbus Day Dinner (Tentative)
October 10	First Degree Exemplification 7 PM (St Clement)
October 13	4th Degree Assembly Mtg 7:30 PM (Nativity SH D)
October 15	Corporate Communion 8:00 AM Mass (Church)
October 15	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Cincinnati)
October 18	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
October 21	Angels Among Us Dinner (Higgins Hall)
October 22	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Philadelphia)
October 28	Dinner Honoring WW II Veterans 7 PM (Nativity)
November 1	All Saints Day
November 3-4	Special Olympics (Orlando)
November 4	St Stephen Golf Scramble (Men's Club)

(Continued on page 7)



GRAND KNIGHTS REPORT

Rick Hughes

657-0343

grandknight@kofc14084.org

Brothers one and all:

Our Council is off to a roaring start. It's hard to believe that a little more than a year ago, the prospect of a Knights of Columbus Council at St Stephen seemed very dim. The Council officers have worked tirelessly to put our processes in place and several talented men have come forward to offer their services as Program Chairmen and Event Coordinators. From the bottom of my heart, I want to thank all of you for the hard work you have put in thus far. There is a lot of energy being generated in our Council, as many outside observers have noted!

The four principles of our Order are Charity, Unity, Fraternity, and Patriotism. While we need to remember all of these principles in our lives, I have chosen to emphasize the principle of Unity in our first year as a Council. As many experienced Knights can attest, there are many KofC Councils that have large membership rosters, but few active members. There are certainly many members whose family or job commitments or personal health prevent them from contributing to Council activities. But I sincerely believe that the key to a healthy, active, and successful Council is to ask every member to contribute something to the Council. To use a phrase coined by our Worthy Chaplain and Pastor, I am calling on every Knight to be a Minister.

How can you fulfill this call? First, I ask that each and every Council member sign up for least one of the Program Committees (Church, Community, Family, Youth, Council, Membership). Now, I certainly don't expect you to be able to participate in every single event or program the Council sponsors. But a healthy Council is active in all of the service program areas. I have challenged the Council officers to achieve the distinction of Star Council in our first year, which requires, among other things, at least four programs or events by each of the five Service Program Committees. But they cannot do it without your help! Even if you can only help out one program or event during this Fraternal Year, your contribution will be enormous. To use a phrase I heard years ago as a member of previous Council, "Many hands make light work."

Second, be visible as a Knight. Many of you have been active in the parish and the community long before you became Knights. The work you do as a liturgical minister, religious education teacher, prolife advocate, Boy Scouts or youth sports program leader, St Vincent de Paul worker, and many, many other ministries exemplifies what the Knights are all about. Wear your nametag, or a KofC logo shirt, or the Emblem of the Order that you received at your First Degree and proudly proclaim that you are a Knight of Columbus. It is the force and the example of the way we live our lives, particularly in our ministries, that will inspire other Catholic men to join our Order. There is no reason why every man over 18 who is a practical Catholic should not be a Knight. You can help make that ideal a reality. And let us know about your ministry, so that we can share your efforts and accomplishments with other Council members.

This is our first attempt at a Council newsletter. If you don't like it, blame me! I have unabashedly borrowed ideas and formats from other Councils. Fortunately, Brother Dave Morrow has offered to take on this task from now on. Thank you, Dave! If you have any ideas, please forward them to Dave. To save on postage, we will initially to email the newsletter to members for whom we have valid email addresses, using regular mail only as necessary. In the back of the newsletter are spaces for placing member's business cards. While this is free for members, we are seeking sponsors who may be willing to help underwrite the costs for producing and mailing the newsletter. Please contact me if you are willing to be such a sponsor.

Vivat Jesus!

OFFICERS

Grand Knight

Rick Hughes

Chaplain

Fr. Bill Swengros

Deputy Grand Knight

Frank Wuco

Chancellor

Tony Westbrook

Warden

Tim Donahue

Financial Secretary

Ed Smith

Treasurer

Chuck Lusky

Advocate

Jerry Westbrook

Recorder

John Columbia, Jr.

Lecturer

Tom Cummings IV

Guards

*Inside: John Columbia III
Outside: Craig Diemer
Warren Woods*

Trustees

*1 Year: Ed Milius, PGK
2 Years: Allen Eckerle, PGK
3 Years: Nick Turco, PGK*

Field Agent

*Thomas P. Cummings III
813-625-2444*

Email: Thomas.Cummings@kofc.org

DIRECTORS & CHAIRS

Membership Director

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Program Director

Frank Wuco

Church Committee

Jerry Westbrook

Community Committee

Chuck Lusky

Council Committee

Ed Milius

Family Committee

Stan Hinde

Youth Committee

Tom Bailey

Degree Team Captain

Ed Milius

Public Relations

Tony Westbrook

RJS Concessions Contact

Julio Alvarez, Jr.

Newsletter Editor

Dave Morrow

Resource Links

Council Web Site

www.kofc14084.org

Florida State Council

www.floridastatecouncil.com

Supreme Council:

www.kofc.org

Fr McGivney Guild

www.fathermcgivney.org

CHAPLAIN'S REPORT

(GK's note—this space is reserved for our Worthy Chaplain and pastor as he sees fit. I did not ask him for a contribution this month, but hopefully he will be able to address us in future inewletters!)

Banquet of Life

Nov 10, 2006 6:00 PM

St Lawrence Catholic Church—Higgins Hall

This is an annual event that benefits Pregnancy Plus Medical of Catholic Charities. As Knights, we should do everything we can to support the Culture of Life. One of the goals this year is to raise sufficient funds to purchase a mobile ultrasound capability to provide free sonograms to women considering abortion. To use a very old cliché, a picture is worth a thousand words!

We would like to get a table of 10 from the Council at this event. The cost is \$50 per person. If you would like to attend, please call the Grand Knight at 657-0343, or email grandknight@kofc14084.org for more information.

District Deputy's Report

On behalf of our State Deputy, Bob Read, greetings to our brother knights. The next First Degree in the district will be on October 10, at 7:00 P.M. at St. Clement Council 8095 in Plant City at Cronin Hall. The newly ordained associate pastor at St. Clement, Fr. Carlos Rojas, will take the First Degree of the Order. It would be great to have a large turn out of Brother Knights to welcome Fr. Carlos into the order. There are over 300 councils in the Florida State Council. Only 51 achieved Star Council. St. Clement Council 8095 was one of those 51. Thanks and congratulations to PGK Tom Gibbons for an outstanding year.

The Banquet of Life Dinner will be held November 10, at St Lawrence Parish Hall. This dinner benefits the Catholic Charities of the Diocese of St. Petersburg Pregnancy Plus Medical center that serves Hillsborough County. Cost of the dinner is \$50 per person. In the last few years Mother Seton Council 6724 has purchased a table (10 people) and been the only KofC group present at this prelife event. I know the district can do better than one table. How about we aim to add one more table between the remaining four councils? That is only one couple per council. Perhaps councils would consider buying two tickets for their prelife couples. I am sure that if there is a need we could get more tables. What do you say about helping to save the baby humans?

October is the month of the rosary and councils should have some activity set aside for praying the rosary as a group throughout the month. One of your intentions might be to have success in recruiting new Knights at your Blitz. For the councils who ran their blitz in September, perhaps in Thanksgiving for the new knights you obtained. Pray for peace. Pray for vocations to the priesthood and religious life. Pray in thanksgiving for our dedicated priests and religious. Pray for our seminarians. Pray for the sick. Pray for those who have died and their family members. Pray for the DD to be brief at your next business meeting. Pray for our namesake, Christopher Columbus on his holiday on October 12. Pray for an end to abortion. Pray for our veterans who have helped to provide our freedoms. Lots to pray for and lots of days to get it done. Keep in mind that in November we celebrate the sainthood of all those who "have made it" but don't have a special feast day set aside for them. We also pray for our beloved dead that they will one day be with God.

Spelling bees, soccer challenges, essay contests, *Keep Christ in Christmas* Christmas cards and car magnets, poster contests, and many other programs coming up. To our members that I don't see at meetings: you can see that there are a lot of things that might be going on in your council. Wouldn't it be terrible if your council couldn't conduct a program because YOU, just you, refused to help a brother knight? **NOW** is the time to get active. Remember that many hands make for light work!

To our brothers who may be delinquent in their dues: remember why you joined this great organization. If you are having financial difficulties contact your Financial Secretary or Grand Knight. Most likely an arrangement can be worked out. We are a family oriented fraternal benefits organization and we can surely help our brothers who are in need but please do not ignore the billings that you receive. A great amount of time and energy will be expended to keep you. We are a great organization because of YOU and you are needed and your ideas are valued. Until I see YOU at the next business meeting, God bless!

Fraternally,

Jim Merckling

Church

*Jerry Westbrook 651-1043
jerrywestbrock@tampabay.rr.com*

The Church Committee is off to a great start, with 12 or so members actively preparing programs. Thanks to the following members who have taken on some great projects to support the parish:

Christmas at Hospice House—*Frank Hannington*
Evangelization—*Frank Hannington*
Keep Christ in Christmas Campaign—*John Sepessy*
Parochial Services—*Steve Haines*
Religious Devotions—*Bernie Loughlin*
Vocations—*Nick Turco*

The Keep Christ in Christmas campaign is about to swing into full gear, with the sale of religious Christmas cards and other items. We are also looking at purchasing outdoor Nativity sets as well as roadside banners for the Church and/or school property.

October is the Month of the Rosary. We hope to have a date to conduct a Living Rosary soon. We encourage everyone to pray the rosary this month.

Community

*Chuck Lusky 643-5587
clusky@tampabay.rr.com*

Many activities are in the works for the Community Committee. We are still short-handed, so if you have some interest, it is a great place to volunteer. We are conducting our first road cleanup on Sep 30 beginning at 8 AM at the Church. On Sep 27, we are hosting a Blue Mass to honor law enforcement personnel and firefighters at the regular Wednesday evening Mass (7 PM). Please come and support these local heroes. Looking ahead, we are hoping to help out at the Special Olympics in Orlando on Nov 3-4.

Finally, we need some volunteers to help form a Military Family Support Committee to assist families of deployed military parishioners. If you have a calling for this ministry, please contact Greg Gamboor at Chuck Lusky at 643-5587 or Greg Grambor at 653-3131.

Family

*Stan Hinde 671-2623
shinde80@verizon.net*

We had a great family pot-luck social on Aug 4, held in conjunction with our installation of officers. We'd like to have these functions on a more or less bi-monthly basis, and open them up to the parish. Please contact Stan if you wish to help out—after all, we are a Family Fraternal Service organization. Come on out to our Corporate Communion on Oct 15 at the 8 AM Mass. Afterwards, we are heading for the Golden Corral for breakfast. Come join us (if you aren't working the stadium, that is!)

We have many ideas for future events—bowling nights, field trips, etc.—so please give Stan a call if you can help out.

Finally, every month we seek nominations for Family of the Month. If you know of a Knight's family deserving of recognition for their ministry and/or their display of Christian values, please contact Stan Hinde or the Grand Knight, Rick Hughes.

Youth

*Tom Bailey 689-3613
tebe1021@yahoo.com*

Our first Soccer Challenge on Sep 16th was a great success! Our Grand Knight, Rick Hughes, organized the event with the help of many member volunteers (and spouses!) Special thanks to Chris Lewis, who secured the BAYSL facilities at JC Handy field. The event was held in conjunction with registration for TOPSOCCER, a local league for handicapped children. We had about 60 kids compete, with the winners in ten age and gender categories moving on to regional competition.

We have postponed conducting our Spelling Bee until the next Fraternal Year. However, we have several other Youth events coming up, including the Basketball Freethrow Competition, the Essay Contest, and the Substance Abuse Poster Contest. If you are interested in helping out on these events, or if you have other ideas on how to support our Catholic youth, please contact Tom Bailey.

Council

Ed Milius 689-6565
Ed_Milius@yahoo.com

Corporate Communion is scheduled for Oct 15 at the 8 AM Mass, followed by breakfast at the Golden Corral. Come join us! Thanks to the following members who have volunteered their efforts to the Council:

Newsletter—*Dave Morrow*
Public Relations—*Tony Westbrook*
Web Site—*Joe Saski*

Joe has done a fantastic job on the web site—it is going to become central to our operations. Please visit it on a regular basis at www.kofc14084.org. And many thanks to Julio Alvarez, who has taken on the daunting task of coordinating our concession stand work at Raymond James Stadium.

Second Degree team is standing up. If you would like to help out, contact Ed Milius—we are still in need of assistance!

RJS Schedule

Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com

Sep 24 Bucs vs Carolina
Oct 15 Bucs vs Cincinnati
Oct 22 Bucs vs Philadelphia
Nov 5 Bucs vs New Orleans
Nov 19 Bucs vs Washington
Dec 10 Bucs v Atlanta
Dec 31 Bucs Seattle
Jan 1 Outback Bowl

There are also opportunities to help out at USF home games, but the Bucs games are our priority. For 1 PM games, we meet at the Church at 8 AM to car pool to the stadium. This is our only fundraiser for general Council operations—help out where you can!

Calendar of Events (continued from page 1)

November 5	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Carolina)
November 8	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:30 PM (Church Nursery)
November 8	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
November 10	Banquet of Life 6 PM (St Lawrence Higgins Hall)
November 14	First Degree Exemplification 7 PM (Nativity)
November 15	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
November 18	Second Degree Exemplification 10 AM (Tentative)
November 19	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Washington)
November 25-27	Fourth Degree Exemplification (Orlando)
November 29	Memorial Mass 7 PM (Church)
December 3-6	Advent Mission (Church)
December 8	Feast of the Immaculate Conception
December 10	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Atlanta)
December 12	First Degree Exemplification (Nativity)
December 13	Admissions Committee Mtg 6:30 PM (Church Nursery)
December 13	COUNCIL BUSINESS MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
December 20	COUNCIL PLANNING MEETING 8 PM (Church MPR)
December 31	RJS Concession (Bucs vs Seattle)

Membership

*Julio Alvarez 662-1845
jalvarez8@tampabay.rr.com*

Brothers.

We had a great showing during the Membership Blitz as part of a very successful Parish Ministry Fair. We picked up 13 new applicants and 9 transfers or readmissions for a total prospective addition of 22 members to our Council. The next step is, of course, the Admissions Committee beginning at 6:30 on 4 October, before our Business Meeting. Following that, the next event will be the 1st Degree Exemplification on Tuesday, 10 October, at St Clement Catholic Church at Plant City. I will be coordinating a car pool leaving from our Church at 6:00 pm that evening. A very heartfelt thanks to all you brothers who came out to help make this a success!

If you have not done so, check out “Membership 101” on our Council web site. Remember that the best way to recruit a new member is simply to ask. If every member of our Council brought in one new member during the Fraternal Year, our growth would be phenomenal—yet we still will have barely touched our own parish. Let’s continue to make the first Fraternal year of the Council a banner year for recruitment!

Financial Secretary Corner

*Ed Smith 662-1845
esmith@cookieco.com*

For those of you still carrying around a handwritten membership card, or one from 2006, you probably have not been to a Council meeting recently! To save on postage costs, as well as encourage members to come to meetings, we are not mailing out the cards. See me at a meeting to get your card. If you absolutely cannot make a Council meeting, contact me and we’ll make other arrangements.

It is not too early to begin thinking about the Fraternal Survey. Every year, each Council is required to survey its members in a number of areas—estimated volunteer service hours (church, community, youth, Habitat for Humanity, Special Olympics, and miscellaneous), frequency of blood donations, visits to care for the sick and console the bereaved, and hours of fraternal service. This survey is an important gauge for the Order. In the November newsletter, we will publish a form for each member to fill out, and we try to establish an automated form on our web site. Please help us out by filling out the survey promptly!

Congratulations!

New First Degree Members (Jul-Sep)

*Tom Bailey
Greg Grambor
Steve Haines
Frank Hannington
Jerry Hoffman
Chris Johnson
Jerry Mohr
Matt Shirina*

New Second Degree Members

Rich Collins

New Third Degree Members

*Greg Celestan
John Columbia III
Eric Sessums
Shawn Williams*

New Fourth Degree Members

Remember—you must be certified by the Grand Knight before you can proceed to 2d and 3d degrees. If you have not received a copy of the steps for advancement, send an email to the membership Director and he will get you a copy. Questions? Contact the Advanced Degree Team *Eric Sessums 662-2226* or *Greg Celestan 655-4007* or the Membership Director (*Julio Alvarez 662-1845*).

FAMILY OF THE MONTH

July 2006—Frank & Laly Wuco

August 2006—Matt and Nancy Shirina



FOURTH DEGREE REPORT Bishop McGlaughlin Assembly 1850

Faithful Navigator: *Tim Manning, PGK*

Faithful Comptroller: *Curt Davis, PGK*

KNIGHT OF THE MONTH

July 2006—Julio Alvarez, Jr.

August 2006—Chuck Lusky

Bishop McGlaughlin Assembly 1850 meets the Second Fridays of the Month at 7:30 PM Nativity Church Social Hall D.

Next Fourth Degree Exemplification will take place in Orlando Nov 23-25. Details will be forthcoming.

Assembly 1850 is sponsoring a dinner honoring WWI veterans on Oct 28 at Nativity Church. For details, please contact Rick Hughes, 657-0343.

KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR AWARD

Jim Kelly
Tim Solomon

Sick and Distressed

Please remember the following Knights in your prayers:

Craig Diemer
Nick George
Alan Grundish

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